



Framework Policies for Human Services

Purpose

Human services are important social supports that help advance the well-being of King County's residents and communities. The purpose of the Framework Policies for Human Services is to communicate King County government's role in human services, the goals we seek to achieve, and the principles that will underlie our investments. This document supersedes the 1999 Framework Policies for Human Services.

HS-1: King County has a regional role in human services, working with many partners to help those most in need

King County will work as one partner among many to promote healthy families and safe communities. In concert with federal, state, and local governments, service providers, non-profit organizations, foundations, faith communities, businesses, schools, the criminal justice system and others, King County will seek to build and sustain a coordinated regional human services system to provide services, supports, safety and opportunity to those most in need.

In carrying out its role, King County government will:

1. Work with other jurisdictions and organizations to define a regional human services system and strengthen financing, access, and overall effectiveness of services.
2. Collaborate with other funders to assure coordination in how funds are used, and continue to explore improvements to system design, contracting, data collection and analysis.
3. Retain responsibility for the development and implementation of mandated countywide specialty systems for mental health, drug and alcohol abuse and dependency, veterans, public health, and developmental disabilities services.
4. Define its regional role in other human service systems, including aging, domestic violence, sexual assault, and youth and family services.
5. Assess and measure the health and needs of King County's citizens on an ongoing basis and modify strategies to respond to changing needs, outcomes, and new research.
6. Review the effectiveness and appropriateness of this policy framework periodically and revise if needed.

HS-2: King County's priorities for human service investments will be programs and services that help to stabilize and improve people's lives, and prevent or reduce emergency medical and criminal justice system involvement and costs

King County will focus resources and efforts on programs and services that continue to improve individual and community quality of life, counterbalance growth in areas costly to communities

and taxpayers, and preserve the resources necessary to collaborate as a true partner in regional human service systems. The following priority investment areas are consistent with other regional plans and initiatives:

1. Effective intervention and prevention strategies
2. Job readiness and employment to increase self-sufficiency
3. Prevention and elimination of homelessness
4. Services that reduce the growth of emergency medical and criminal justice system involvement and costs

HS-3: King County will apply principles that promote effectiveness, accountability and social justice

King County embraces the following principles in its human service actions and investments:

1. King County will provide information to the community on its human services planning and evaluation activities, funding processes and criteria, and the results of its investments in a transparent and accountable manner.
2. King County will uphold federal, state, and local laws against discrimination; promote culturally competent and relevant service delivery; and work to end disparities in social, health and economic status among people of different racial and ethnic backgrounds.
3. King County will encourage service approaches that promote recovery and support individuals and families to achieve their full potential to live meaningful and productive lives in the community.
4. King County will foster integration of systems of care through increased information sharing across agencies and programs for the purpose of improved service delivery, coordination and outcomes.
5. Together with its partners, King County will assess and respond to changing human service needs and use data, research, innovation, analysis, and evidence-based practices to drive its investments.